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Duxbury Clipper

Well Continues To Show MTBE

By SUSANNA SHEEHAN

The Millbrook Well is still off line and will remain so indefinitely as the presence of MTBE continues to be detected in it.

Water Superintendent Carl Hillstrom shut down the well last month after finding it contained elevated levels of the

volatile organic compound methyl-tertiary-butyl-ether (MTBE). The latest tests on June 27 showed a slightly elevated level at 4.2 parts per billion (ppb) from the early June test of 3.6 ppb. Testing in May reached a high point of 9.2 ppb.

Water from the well, one of ten that supply Duxbury's

drinking water, is being pumped outside in an effort to release the compound. Hillstrom has said that he won't put the well back on line until he all the MTBE is gone.

"For the health of the community, we're not going to use

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that well," Town Manager Rocco Longo told selectmen at their meeting Monday night.

The Partridge Rd. well and Mayflower I and Mayflower II wells have also shown traces of MTBE. However, on June 27, nothing was detected at both the Partridge Rd. well and the Mayflower II well. The level at the Mayflower I well has decreased to .7 ppb from .8 ppb.

MTBE has seeped into the ground and into groundwater throughout the country. The federal Environmental Protection Agency's standard for MTBE in drinking water is 70 ppb, and the state's level is 35 ppb. When levels reach 10-20 ppb, an odor can be detected in the water. It is now banned in some states.